



DN LEWO 7710US
PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Woodson C. Lewis

Serial No.: 09/527,927

Filed: March 17, 2000

For: ELECTRONIC TICKETING
AND VALIDATION
SYSTEM AND METHOD

Group No.: 2166

Examiner: Parisi

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Technology Center 2100

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES
TO OVERCOME CITED PUBLICATION (37 C.F.R 1.131)**

This declaration is to establish completion of the invention in this application in the United States, at a date prior to January 26, 2000, that is the effective date of a prior art publication cited by the Examiner.

The person making this declaration is the inventor.

To establish the date of conception of the invention of this application, the following attached documents are submitted as evidence: Exhibit A entitled Electronic Entertainment Services Plan; and Exhibit B entitled e.tickets.com Electronic Entertainment Access Systems.

Exhibit A was prepared by me at a date earlier than the effective date of the reference. Exhibit A is an executive overview of my invention. In particular, on the second page of Exhibit A, a background of the problems associated with the current ticketing system is outlined. On page three of Exhibit A there is disclosed a system for

ordering tickets over the Internet. The customer has the capability of printing the ticket locally at home. A password or special code is included on the ticket and this is validated at the event upon arrival.

Exhibit B was prepared by me at a date earlier than the effective date of the reference. Exhibit B is a document which discloses and explains my invention. In particular, on page 3, the invention is described as an Internet based product which allows consumers to select, order, and locally print entertainment event admission tickets from their own PC. It allows users to visit a web site to select their desired event, time and location, order and purchase their tickets, select their seating, and immediately print their tickets at their PC. With the ticket in hand, the user can arrive at the entertainment venue and proceed directly to the point of admission. The ticket is scanned for the system assigned sequence number that appears in a bar code format on the face of their PC printed ticket. Once entry is granted, the system updates the admission record so that duplicate entry (ticket fraud) is not allowed. On page 7 of Exhibit B there is described the ticket having printed thereon the event description, the venue name and location, the event day and time, and, if applicable, the seat selected or assigned. Further, on page 8 of Exhibit B there is disclosed the use of a bar code printed on the face of the ticket that represents a number assigned by the system at the time the ticket is ordered which is unique to that ticket purchase. The bar code is scanned at the point of admission, verified by the system online, and entry is immediately permitted. On page 11 of Exhibit B there is described the capability of downloading and storing a ticket on a hand held 3G device, such as a Palm Pilot. The electronic ticket would then be used to gain admission.

From these documents, it can be seen that the invention in this application was conceived at a date earlier than the effective date of the reference.

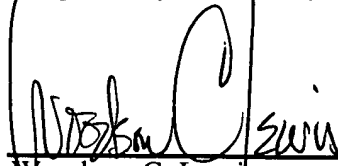
The following establishes the diligence of the applicant from the time of conception, to a time just prior to the date of the reference, up to the filing of this application. After the conception date and prior to the effective date of the reference, I had a meeting with my patent attorney on January 20, 2000. After that meeting, I requested that a patentability search be conducted and such was conducted. Upon receiving and reviewing the results of the patentability search, I instructed my patent attorney to prepare a patent application. I received a copy of a draft of the patent application on March 16, 2000. The patent application was filed on March 17, 2000. Less than sixty (60) days elapsed from my first meeting with my patent attorney and the filing of my patent application. Such period of time shows my diligence from just prior to the effective date of the reference and the filing date of my patent application which is a constructive reduction to practice.

This declaration is submitted prior to final rejection.

As the person signing below:

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Woodson C. Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

Woodson C. Lewis
502 Autumn Oaks Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63021

Dated: April 30, 2001